

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

O'Neal Steel Inc.

Indiana MEP - Purdue Technical Assistance Program

Helping O'Neal Steel Implement Continuous Improvement Processes

Client Profile:

O'Neal Steel, located in Shelbyville, Indiana, sells value-added steel products to the material handling, railroad car building, construction equipment manufacturing, and transportation industries. The company employs 250 people.

Situation:

When O'Neal Steel asked each of its facilities to eliminate production waste through continuous improvement processes, the Shelbyville plant called the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate. "Lean manufacturing is where most original equipment manufacturers are headed. The worst thing that could happen to you as a supplier is your customers go lean and you don't, said Scott Young, Regional Operations Manager.

Solution:

To jump start the process, TAP staff conducted Lean 101 classes at the plant for salaried, administrative, and hourly team members. Now, O'Neal Steel is implementing lean manufacturing based on value stream studies it has conducted.

Results:

* Increased capacity, throughput and capital investment.

Testimonial:

"They have a lot of experience in this kind of process transformation, and understand the challenges we're facing. No matter what happens, they've been through it before, so they have suggestions for what might work."

Scott Young, Regional Operations Manager